

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 35 and 45, and add new claims 47-51, so that the claims read as follows:

Claims 1-34 (cancelled).

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A sanitary napkin for mounting onto the bodyside of a crotch portion of an undergarment, and, during use, absorbing bodily excretions, comprising:

an elongated absorbent pad having a longitudinal axis, a longitudinally extending central portion and opposite longitudinal side edges, said side edges being deflectable with respect to said central portion, and including an absorbent contained between a bodyside, liquid-permeable cover and a garment side, liquid-impermeable baffle; and

control means for selectively controlling deflection of said side edges during use, said control means being anchorable under said crotch portion of said undergarment, said anchoring establishing a generally downward pull on said side edges and preventing said side edges from folding in toward said absorbent, wherein said control means comprises first and second opposite garment attachment panels, extending generally downward and inward from an underside of said absorbent pad adjacent to said side edges; and

wherein said garment attachment panels include a fixed portion attached to the underside of said absorbent pad toward said side edge and a free portion diverging from the underside of said absorbent pad for, during use, extending under said crotch portion of said undergarment, wherein a garment attachment point is defined where said fixed and said free portions meet each other; and

including means for anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels so as to establish a predetermined deflection of said side edges and to facilitate accurate mounting of said sanitary napkin on said undergarment, and

wherein said means for anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels comprises mating fastener elements, one on each of said garment attachment panels, said means for anchoring said free portions being configured, on one of said garment attachment panels, in a

width of from about 0.25 to about 1.0 inches; and on the other of said garment attachment panels, in a width of from about 0.25 to about ~~3.0~~ 1.5 inches.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein the predetermined deflection of said side edges biases said absorbent pad into an upwardly convex form, closely fitting the body.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said absorbent is longitudinally extending and has opposite longitudinal side edges and the deflectable side edges of the absorbent pad normally extend generally laterally with respect to said absorbent and, during use, the anchoring of said garment attachment panel configures said sanitary napkin so that each side edge of said crotch portion of said undergarment is supported approximately no higher than a side edge of said absorbent.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein the anchoring of said garment attachment panel configures said sanitary napkin so that each side edge of said crotch portion of said undergarment is supported approximately beneath a side edge of said absorbent and said absorbent is free to conform to the body of the user.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said fixed portions of said garment attachment panels are disposed so that the right side and the left side of said crotch portion of said undergarment are each restrained adjacent to a side edge of said absorbent pad and prevented from overlaying said absorbent pad.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said side edges of said absorbent pad have a lateral periphery and said absorbent has a longitudinally extending lateral side contiguous with said side edge and said garment attachment panels have an inner attachment lateral limit from which said free portion of said garment attachment panel diverges and said inner lateral limit is disposed between said lateral side of said absorbent and said lateral periphery of said side edge of said absorbent pad.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said cover and said baffle extend laterally beyond said absorbent to define said side edges and wherein said garment attachment panels are secured to said baffle outwardly of said absorbent.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein said side edges, said cover and said baffle are bonded together to form an edge seal.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein at least one of said cover and said baffle extend laterally beyond said absorbent to define said side edges.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 42, wherein said garment attachment panels are attached to the side of said edge seal on which the baffle is located.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A sanitary napkin for mounting onto the bodyside of a crotch portion of an undergarment, and, during use, absorbing bodily excretions, comprising:
an elongated absorbent pad having a longitudinal axis, a longitudinally extending central portion and opposite longitudinal side edges, said side edges being deflectable with respect to said central portion, and including an absorbent contained between a bodyside, liquid-permeable cover and a garment side, liquid-impermeable baffle; and
control means for selectively controlling deflection of said side edges during use, said control means being anchorable under said crotch portion of said undergarment, said anchoring establishing a generally downward pull on said side edges and preventing said side edges from folding in toward said absorbent, wherein said control means comprises first and second opposite garment attachment panels, extending generally downward and inward from an underside of said absorbent pad adjacent to said side edges; and
wherein said garment attachment panels include a fixed portion attached to the underside of said absorbent pad toward said side edge and a free portion diverging from the underside of said absorbent pad for, during use, extending under said crotch portion of said undergarment, wherein a garment attachment point is defined where said fixed and said free portions meet each other; and

including means for anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels so as to establish a predetermined deflection of said side edges and to facilitate accurate mounting of said sanitary napkin on said undergarment, and

wherein said means for anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels comprises mating fastener elements, one on each of said garment attachment panels;

~~The sanitary napkin of claim 35,~~ wherein the opposite longitudinal side edges of the elongated absorbent pad are widened laterally in at least a longitudinally central portion of their length to define a pair of first side panels, each first side panel extending laterally beyond the absorbent sufficiently that, during use, the first side panels extend beyond and depend below the side edges of the crotch portion of the undergarment.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The sanitary napkin of claim 45, wherein each of the first side panels at least partially overlays one of the garment attachment panels, and each of the first side panels has a greater longitudinal extent than the garment attachment panel that it overlays.

Claim 47 (New): The sanitary napkin of claim 35 wherein said means for anchoring said free portions are disposed on a bodyside surface of one of said garment attachment panels and on a garment side surface of the other of said garment attachment panels.

Claim 48 (New): A sanitary napkin for mounting onto the bodyside of a crotch portion of an undergarment, and, during use, absorbing bodily excretions, comprising:

an elongated absorbent pad having a longitudinal axis, a longitudinally extending central portion and opposite longitudinal side edges, said side edges being deflectable with respect to said central portion, and including an absorbent contained between a bodyside, liquid-permeable cover and a garment side, liquid-impermeable baffle; and

control means for selectively controlling deflection of said side edges during use, said control means being anchorable under said crotch portion of said undergarment, said anchoring establishing a generally downward pull on said side edges and preventing said side edges from folding in toward said absorbent, wherein said control means comprises first and second opposite

garment attachment panels, extending generally downward and inward from an underside of said absorbent pad adjacent to said side edges; and

wherein said garment attachment panels include a fixed portion attached to the underside of said absorbent pad toward said side edge and a free portion diverging from the underside of said absorbent pad for, during use, extending under said crotch portion of said undergarment, wherein a garment attachment point is defined where said fixed and said free portions meet each other; and

including means for anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels so as to establish a predetermined deflection of said side edges and to facilitate accurate mounting of said sanitary napkin on said undergarment, and

wherein said means for anchoring said free portions of said garment attachment panels comprises mating fastener elements, one on each of said garment attachment panels, said means for anchoring said free portions being configured, on one of said garment attachment panels, in a first width, and on the other of said garment attachment panels in a second width, wherein said second width is greater than said first width.

Claim 49 (New): An undergarment assembly for absorbing bodily excretions comprising:

an undergarment comprising a bodyside, a garment side and a crotch portion;

an elongated absorbent pad comprising a longitudinal axis, a longitudinally extending central portion, opposite longitudinal side edges, and an absorbent contained between a bodyside cover and a garment side cover, said absorbent having a second width, wherein said garment side cover is disposed adjacent said bodyside of said undergarment; and

at least a pair of attachment panels extending from said pad laterally outwardly from said side edges respectively, said attachment panels each including a fastening element, said attachment panels moveable between an unsecured position wherein said fastening elements are not secured one to the other, and a secured position wherein said attachment panels extend underneath said crotch portion adjacent said garment side of said undergarment with said fastening elements secured one to the other, and wherein said side edges are deflected with respect to said central portion as said attachment panels are moved from said unsecured position to said secured position.

Claim 50 (New): The undergarment assembly of claim 49 wherein said crotch portion defines a first width between opposite sides thereof and second absorbent pad defines a second width between opposite sides thereof, wherein said second width is greater than or equal to said first width when said fastening elements are secured one to the other.

Claim 51 (New): The undergarment assembly of claim 49 wherein said pair of attachment panels each have a fixed end secured to a garment side of said absorbent pad.